

10 October 72

Dear Hal,

Yes, I'm sorry to say, a very long silence from this end. But it has nothing to do with your letters or inquiries. First, in June, Jean was hurt. She was at that time working in a private psychiatric hospital here in Omaha (between us we have nearly 20 years in this kind of work, without ever sustaining more than an occasional bump or bruise), and was struck by a patient: the base of a glass soda pop bottle against her right forehead. She kept her presence of mind, took the bottle, and made it back where she could get assistance, as her eyes were blinded from the flow of blood down her face. But she sustained a concussion and the wound was an ugly one which took some 40 stitches to close properly. Her experience and overall self-possession carried her through the incident remarkably well. Even so, she is still in the care of our physician and will ~~continue~~ continue to be for an unspecified time. An unfortunate episode, and one which I took less gracefully than Jean. I admit to being very, very badly shaken...and slow in recovering.

Then, toward the end of last month, a persistent pain in my stomach reveals itself as an infected appendix. None too soon, the surgeon removed it...but the infection made a sojourn in the hospital (7 days) unavoidable. However, I've been home a few days now and am mending well. Sigh. Hopefully, no more medical emergencies for awhile.

But a word about the problems you've described in detail in your most recent letters. (I assume you did receive my letter of 29 April.) Regarding the attorney, if it were me I would be tempted to consult the Legal Aid Society. As for the GHA, I would myself probably not challenge them or make any demands on them via personal letter or interview. You've tried that without much success. I think I would let an attorney, preferably Legal Aid, investigate the matter of just what medical records are now extant and precisely who is legally entitled to examine them. And it is important that you and the attorney who represents you be able to communicate well; a fair degree of mutual understanding is probably imperative. If it doesn't exist, try and switch attorneys. But stay with a public service attorney such as Legal Aid customarily provides, if at all possible.

The copy of your letter to Lorenz was most interesting (and yes, I would like to read a transcript of the Newman interview should you be able to obtain one), because of the background information it gave. I'm profoundly sorry, Hal, about what happened to your chicken farm and to your life as a result.

A further thought about the GHA. You ask my opinion about getting them to live up to their own rules and regulations.. I don't know. But it is clearly a job for an attorney. Go over the GHA regulations with your attorney and point out seeming inconsistencies and ask him what, if anything, can be done.

Must go on to mound of correspondence still to be done. Take best of care of yourselves and do keep in touch.

Reil